

2. Two great roads have been cut through the forest, and sundry woodman's paths penetrate it at different points. In the centre there is a little hamlet of a few miserable huts called Hohenlinden.

3. In this forest, on the night of the third of December, 1800, Moreau, with sixty thousand men, encountered the Archduke John with seventy thousand Austrian troops. The clocks upon the towers of Munich had but just tolled the hour of midnight, when both armies were in motion, each hoping to surprise the other.

4. A dismal wintry storm was howling over the tree-tops and the smothering snow, falling rapidly, obliterated all traces of a path, and rendered it almost impossible to drag through the drifts the ponderous artillery.

5. Both parties in the dark, tempestuous night became entangled in the forest, and the heads of their columns met in various places. An awful scene of confusion, conflict and carnage then ensued. Imagination cannot compass the terrible sublimity of the spectacle.

6. The dark midnight, the howlings of the wintry storm, the driving sheets of snow, the incessant roar of artillery and of musketry from one hundred and thirty thousand combatants, the lightning flashes of the guns, the crash of the falling trees as the heavy cannon-balls swept through the forest, the floundering of innumerable horsemen bewildered in the pathless snow, the shouts of onset, the shriek of death, and the burst of martial music from a thousand bands—all combined to present a scene of horror and of demoniac energy which probably even this lost world never presented before.

7. The darkness of the black forest was so intense, and the snow fell in flakes so thick and fast and blinding, that the combatants could with difficulty see each other. They often indeed fired at the flashes gleaming through the gloom. At times hostile divisions became intermingled in inextinguishable confusion, and hand to hand, bayonet crossing bayonet